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peas, squashes, pumpkins, turnips, martynas, lettuce, spinach, and other vegetables, besides herbs, black, red and white currants, and several varieties of grapes; we also had a large number of flowers. During the summer our garden has been remarkably free from worms, and our crops never were better. Our trees never did better, while they have been remarkably free from caterpillars where last year (1873) they were nearly stripped of their foliage by their ravages.

In the place of the eight sparrows let out in April we now have thirty, and they appear to be constantly at work about the place. They are nearly always accompanied by the American goldfinch or yellow bird and our common sparrow.

To-day as I sat in my room writing I saw them fraternizing with a flock of blackbirds on one of our walnut trees. In fact they seem to court the society of other birds, and never have the birds been so abundant on our place. The male sparrows fight among themselves after the manner of roosters, but do not seem to molest other birds.

The sparrows did, with the yellow birds, attack our radish and turnip seeds as they ripened, but by using netting around those plants we kept the birds from doing serious damage. Nothing else was attacked by them, and we consider them a positive benefit to our place. We keep a horse and are accustomed to spread the stable droppings from day to day, broadcast. The sparrows seem to watch for this, and in an incredibly short time pick over and separate the manure and spread it much better than could be done with the hoe and rake. They are sprightly, friendly, and useful, and we would not have them leave us for much more than they originally cost.—STEPHEN GOULD, *Newport, R. I., Sept., 1874.*

MONSTROSITIES AMONG BEETLES.—Dr. Kraatz publishes, in the 17th volume of the *Berliner Entomologische Zeitschrift*, an illustrated paper on deformities in beetles.

## GEOLOGY.

SUPPOSED LOWER SILURIAN LAND PLANTS.—Prof. J. S. Newberry doubts (*American Journal Science and Arts*, August, 1874) whether the *Sigillaria* mentioned by M. Lesquereux as occurring in the Lower Silurian beds of Ohio is a *Sigillaria* at all or whether it is a land plant even.

EUROPEAN FOSSIL CETACEA.—Prof. J. F. Brandt has published, in the memoirs of the Royal Academy of St. Petersburg, an elaborate quarto work on the fossil and sub-fossil Cetacea of Europe. It is illustrated with 34 plates.

### ANTHROPOLOGY.

RESTORATION OF INDIAN POTTERY.—The caving of a bank of loamy earth on the east side of Connecticut River, about seven miles above Hartford, brought to light, several years ago, fragments of Indian pottery, which were found by a gentleman then temporarily residing at East Windsor Hill in that vicinity. They were composed of burnt clay intermingled with particles of pounded quartz, and as they evidently had a relation to one another, he commenced putting them together, using for that purpose slips of writing paper, about half an inch wide, and two inches long, coated with thick gum-arabic mucilage, and stuck on the inside of the pieces opposite the joints.

When I first saw his work he had reconstructed, from the pieces which he had found, about half of a kettle, the rim of which was entire, and about ten inches in diameter, and quite elaborately ornamented with lines grooved in the clay while it was in a plastic state. I was much interested in his work, for though I had frequently found fragments of that kind of pottery, I had never seen pieces of any one utensil sufficient in size or number to indicate the forms or dimensions of such ware. I went with him to the place of deposit, and we raked and sifted the soil thoroughly, and recovered additional fragments, from which we built up with the gummed slips, the entire form of the kettle, although there were in several places gaps which no shards were found to fill. It cost a deal of time and study to locate all the pieces, of which there were about seventy-five in number broken (it might almost be said) into every shape and size into which crockery could be broken. The labor was like that of putting together a dissected map, *very dissected*; or like that of solving all the figures of a book of Chinese puzzles laid together in one grand design.

The gummed slips answered the purpose of their designer admirably. Had he interposed between the shards any kind of cement, that would have prevented strict contiguity, or that would have set them immovably in their places as they were added one